

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MANILA 02821 210905Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /013 W  
-----104864 210910Z /15  
P 210840Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1965

S E C R E T MANILA 2821

EA ONLY

FOR AMBASSADOR NEWSOM FROM WENZEL

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, RP  
SUBJECT: QUESTIONS ON AQUINO

1. HERE ARE MY RESPONSES TO THE THREE QUESTIONS YOU  
POSED ON AQUINO:

A. IS AQUINO AWARE OF THE EFFORTS THE USG HAS BEEN  
MAKING IN HIS BEHALF? GENERALLY, YES. AS YOU KNOW, WE  
HAVE BEEN MAINTAINING REGULAR CONTACT WITH SUCH AQUINO  
ASSOCIATES AS SALONGA, RODRIGO AND ROXAS AS WELL AS  
WITH AQUINO'S WIFE AND MOTHER. DURING THESE CONTACTS  
WE HAVE ON MANY OCCASIONS DISCUSSED MATTERS RELATING TO  
AQUINO, HIS TRIAL, THE HARVARD OFFER, HIS IBP CANDIDACY,  
POSSIBLE RELEASE/EXILE. IN ADDITION THERE HAVE BEEN THE  
STATE DEPARTMENT'S EXPRESSION OF "DISTURBANCE" WHEN THE  
DEATH SENTENCE WAS HANDED DOWN IN DECEMBER AS WELL AS  
PATT DERIAN'S PERSONAL VISIT TO HIM LAST MONTH. I AM  
CONFIDENT THAT THESE EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ON OUR  
PART HAVE NOT BEEN LOST ON AQUINO. WHILE HE MAY NOT BE  
PRIVY TO ALL OF THE DETAILS (E.G., YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH  
MARCOS), HE IS CERTAINLY AWARE OF THE THRUST AND GENERAL  
OUTLINE OF OUR ACTIVITIES IN THIS REGARD.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MANILA 02821 210905Z

B. IS AQUINO GRATEFUL FOR THESE USG EFFORTS?  
PERHAPS marginally so. I SUSPECT THAT HE SEES OUR  
SUPPORT AS MORE HIS RIGHT THAN AS A FAVOR BY US.  
I DOUBT THAT HE VIEWS USG SUPPORT AS CRUCIAL IN HIS  
CASE. HE IS PROBABLY MORE GRATEFUL TO THE US MEDIA FOR  
BRINGING HIS CASE TO THE ATTENTION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

AND GONCRESS.

C. IF AQUINO IS RELEASED, WOULD HE LIKELY ADOPT AN ANTI-AMERICAN LINE IN THE CAMPAIGN? PROBABLY NOT TO ANY GREAT EXTENT (WHETHER OR NOT HE IS RELEASED). I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF WE COULD GO THROUGH THE ENTIRE CAMPAIGN WITHOUT SOME CRITICAL REFERENCE TO THE US BY THE OPPOSITION AND POSSIBLE ALSO BY THE ADMINISTRATION SIDE. ALREADY COLUMNIST VALENCIA IS SUGGESTING THAT THE OPPOSITION IS SUPPORTED BY THE USG, WHICH COULD STIMULATE AN AQUINO EFFORT TO PROVE HIS NATIONALIST CREDENTIALS. ANY SENSE OF GRATITUDE TO THE USG THAT AQUINO MIGHT HAVE WOULD NOT LIKELY DETER HIM FROM SPEAKING OUT AGAINST US POLICIES SHOULD HE DECIDE IT IN HIS INTEREST TO DO SO. BUT MY GUESS IS THAT HE WILL NOT MAKE US POLICIES A MAJOR CAMPAIGN ISSUE. GIVEN THE CURRENT SENTIMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE ELECTORATE, AN ANTI-US CAMPAIGN WOULD NOT SEEM TO PROFIT AQUINO. FROM WHAT WE KNOW, THE OPPOSITION'S FOCUS WILL BE PRIMARILY DOMESTIC--MARTIAL LAW AND PERHAPS CORRUPTION.

2. PLEASE NOTE EA ONLY CAPTION.  
STULL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PRISONERS, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MANILA02821  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780077-0878  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MANILA  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780233/aaaabbrw.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 41ff60d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3537358  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** QUESTIONS ON AQUINO  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINS, PINT, RP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/41ff60d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014